

# LAWN BOWLS

## PROFILE

There are just under 281,000 people playing lawn bowls in Australia, a participation rate of 2.2%.

On average, lawn bowls participants:

- Are males, aged 65 years or over
- Reside in non-capital city regions of New South Wales or Victoria
- Will not be in the work force

Most participants will only play this sport. Of those who do participate in other sports, the most popular are golf and carpet bowls.

## AGE AND GENDER

Lawn bowls is a very popular sport with Australians, with more than 280,600 persons aged 18 years or more play it. Just over 60% of participants are men, that is 174,700 participants, at a rate of 2.7%. The participation rate for the 105,900 women who play the sport is 1.6%. Overall, lawn bowls is played by 22 in every one thousand Australian adults.

Participants in lawn bowls show a significantly older age profile than that of all participants in sport and physical activities – over 90% of people involved in this activity are 45 years of age or older, while 31.2% of all sports participants fall into this age group. With the majority of sports and activities the participation rates steadily decline progressively with age, However, with lawn bowls, the participation rate climbs steadily with each successively older age group, with a rate for persons aged over 65 years being 7.4%. This age group accounts for 52.8% of all people involved in lawn bowls.

## RESIDENCE

The highest participation rate is observed in South Australia where 2.7% of the adult population participate in lawn bowls. This is the only State or Territory that has a higher participation rate than the Australian average of 2.2%. The lowest participation rates are in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, with rates of 1.4% and 1% respectively.

For all organised sport and physical activities, people living in non-capital city regions have a higher participation rate than those living in the capital-cities, 31% compared to 26.2%. This difference is also observed for lawn bowls participants, with participation rates of 3.4% for non-capital city regions, and 1.4% for capital-city participants.

## BIRTHPLACE

Australian-born people comprise 87.2% (244,700 participants) of all lawn bowls players, a much higher proportion than the percentage of Australian-born people

in the population (72.6%). There is little difference in the proportion of Australians born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand (10.4%) and the percentage of lawn bowls players from these countries (9.8%). Only 3% of participants (8,400 people) were born in other countries, significantly less than the 17.3% of all Australian adults with this birthplace.

### **MARITAL STATUS**

The proportion of married people who play lawn bowls (75.2%) is higher both than the proportion of married people participating in organised sport and physical activities (61.1%) and the percentage of Australians who are married (64.5%). Similarly, more lawn bowlers are separated, divorced or widowed (21%) than the percentage of all Australians and participants in all sports and physical activities in this category (13.3% and 9.4% respectively).

The situation is reversed for persons who have never been married. Only 3.8% of lawn bowls players have never been married while for organised sport and physical activity participants and all people aged 18 years or more, the proportions of which are 29.5% and 22.1% respectively.

### **LABOUR FORCE STATUS**

Of all lawn bowlers, 65.8% are not in the labour force; almost three times the proportion of participants in all sports and physical activities with this classification (22.8%). With such a large percentage of players not in the labour force, it is not surprising that the proportion of participants in lawn bowls who work full time (26%) is lower than both the proportion of adults employed full time (43.8%), and the percentage of participants in all sport and physical activities engaged in full time work (53.3%). This situation is also observed for part time workers. Indeed, 7.9% of lawn bowlers work part time while the corresponding proportions for all adults and participants in all sports and physical activities who work less than 35 hours per week is 17.9% and 19.8% respectively.

### **OCCUPATION**

More lawn bowls players work as managers and administrators (6.2%) than any other occupation. This is closely followed by professionals and trades persons and related workers, each of which accounts for 4.7% of lawn bowlers.

### **HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

The highest educational qualification attained by more lawn bowls players than any other qualification was a secondary school certificate, held by 56.6% of people involved. This percentage was higher than the proportions of all organised sport and physical activity participants with a secondary school certificate (45.2%) and of all persons with this qualification (51.6%).

The proportion of participants in lawn bowls with a trade certificate (17.8%) is also higher than the percentage of participants in all sport and physical activities with this qualification (13.1%).

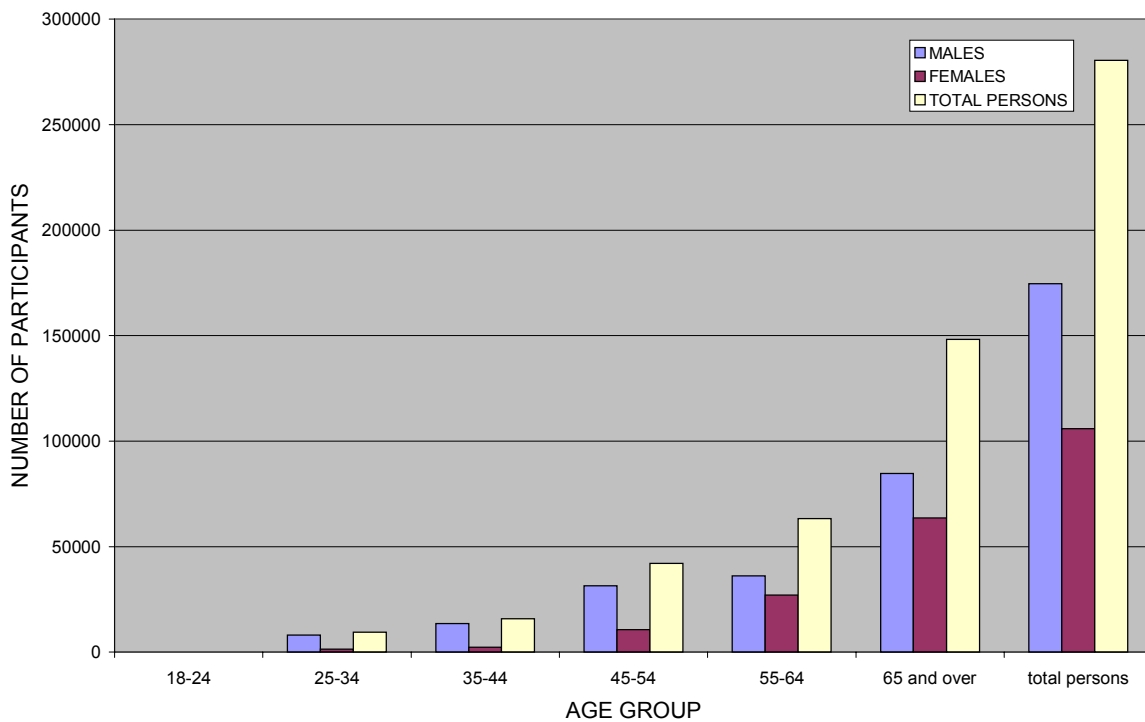
Only 5% of people who play lawn bowls have a bachelors degree or higher, a proportion which is substantially lower than both that of participants in all sport and physical activities (15.5%) and the percentage of all people with this qualification (13.4%).

**OTHER ORGANISED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN**

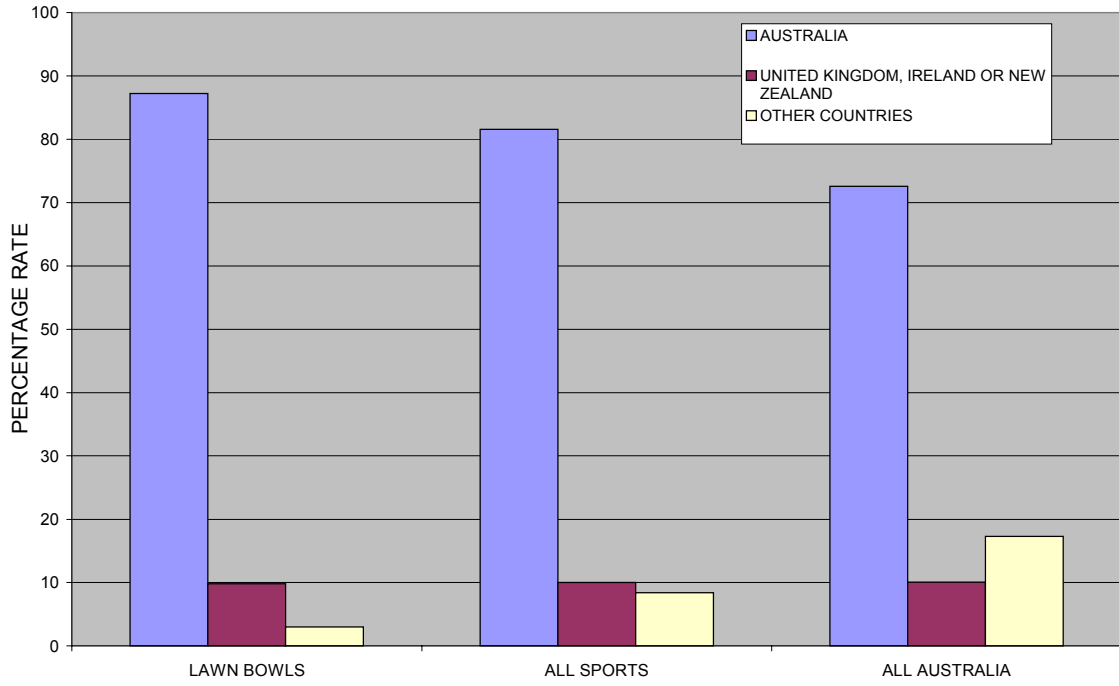
Lawn bowls is the only organised sport or physical activity undertaken by more than 75% of all people who play the sport (217,500 people). Only 18.9% (53,200 people) participate in one additional sport or physical activity, while 2.1% (5,800 people) take part in two other activities and only 1.5% (4,100 people) play three or more other sports or physical activities.

Golf is clearly the most popular other sport played by lawn bowlers, with 22,800 people participating in both sports. Other sport and physical activities popular with lawn bowlers are carpet bowls (9,000 participants), tennis (4,800) and darts (4,200).

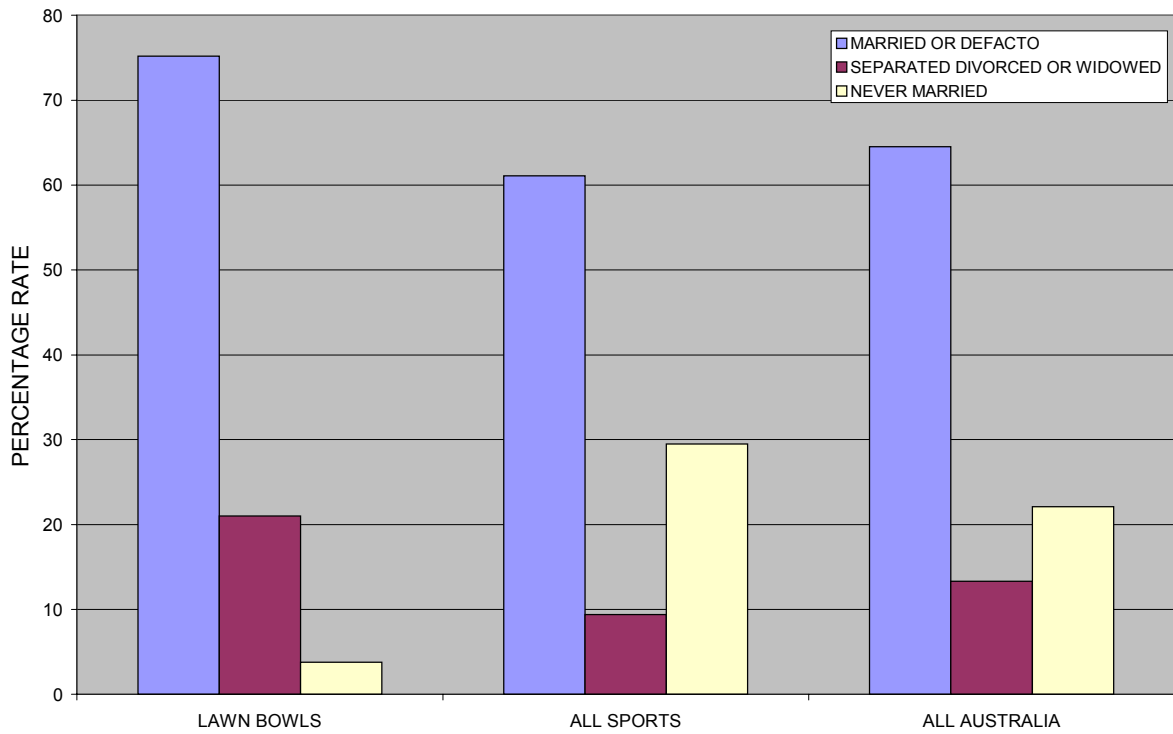
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER



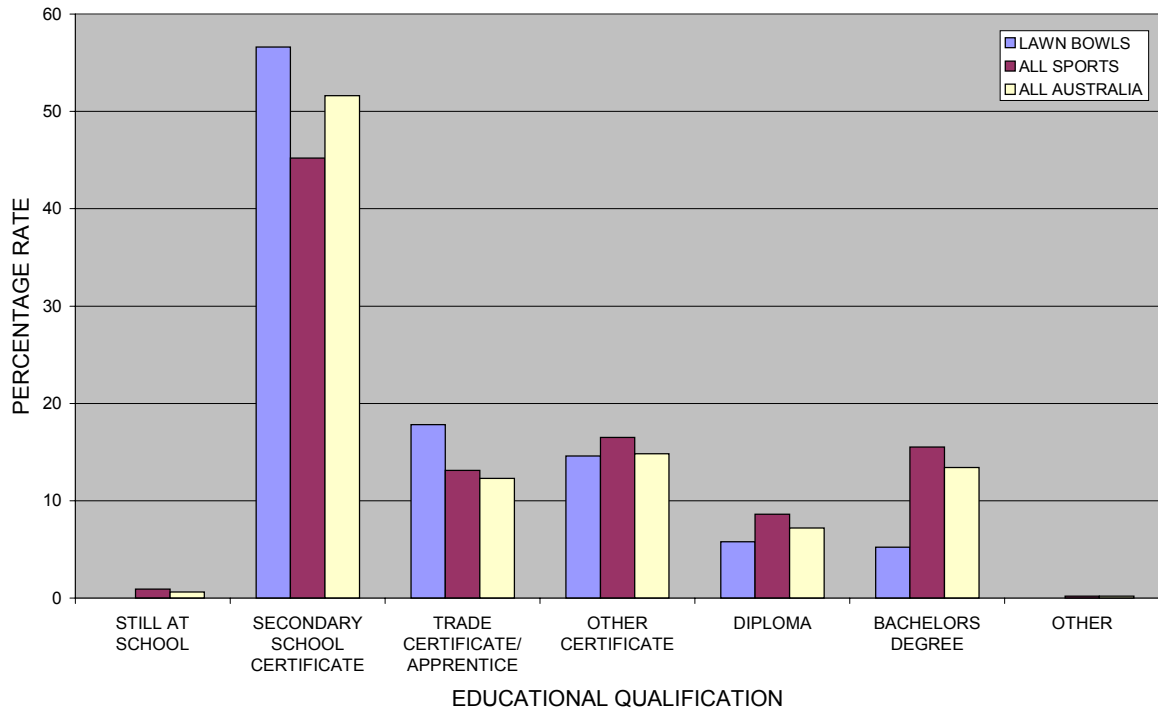
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



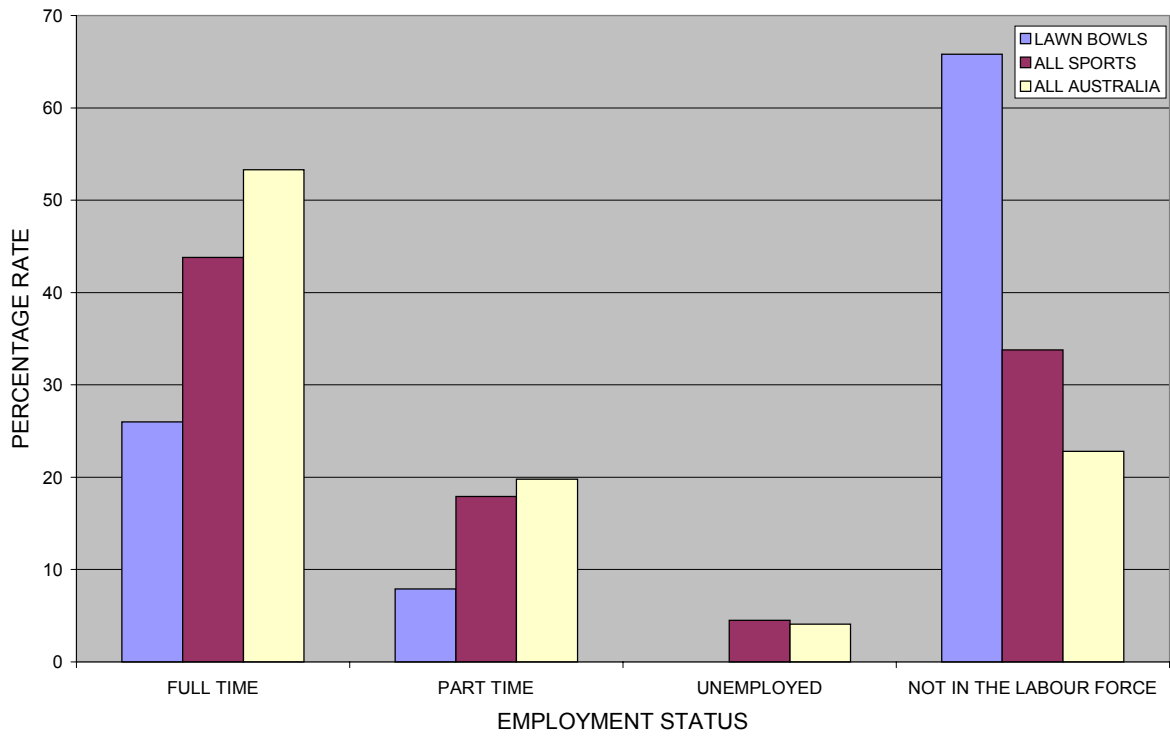
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



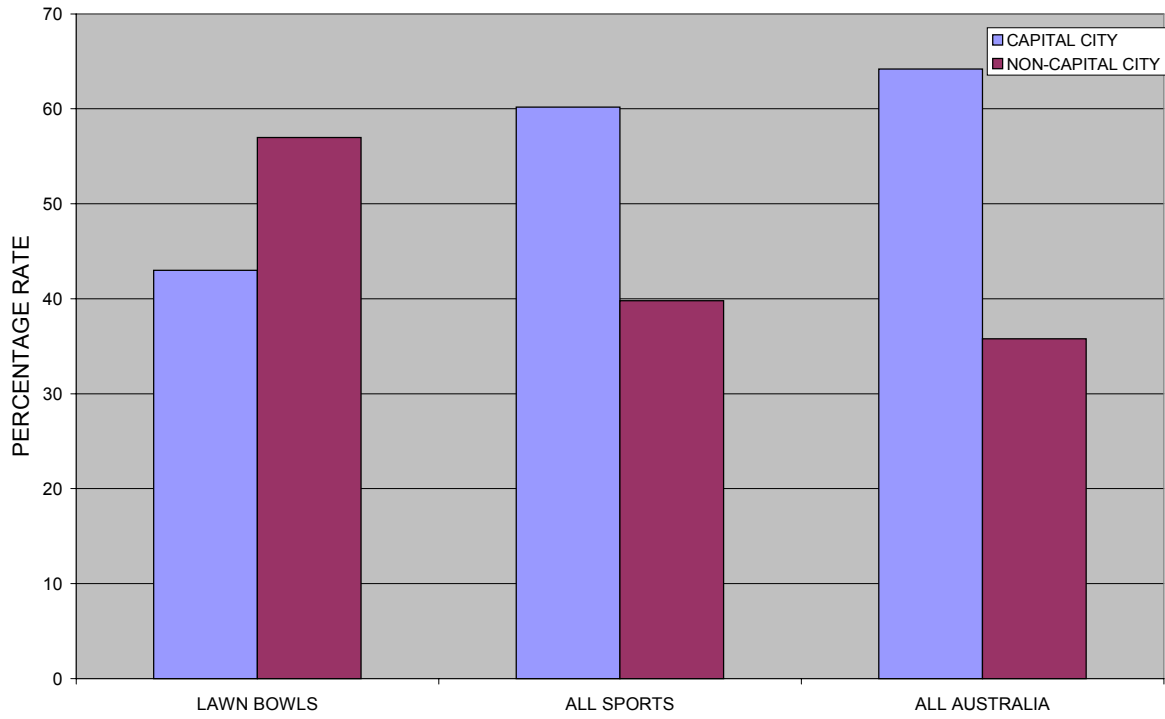
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



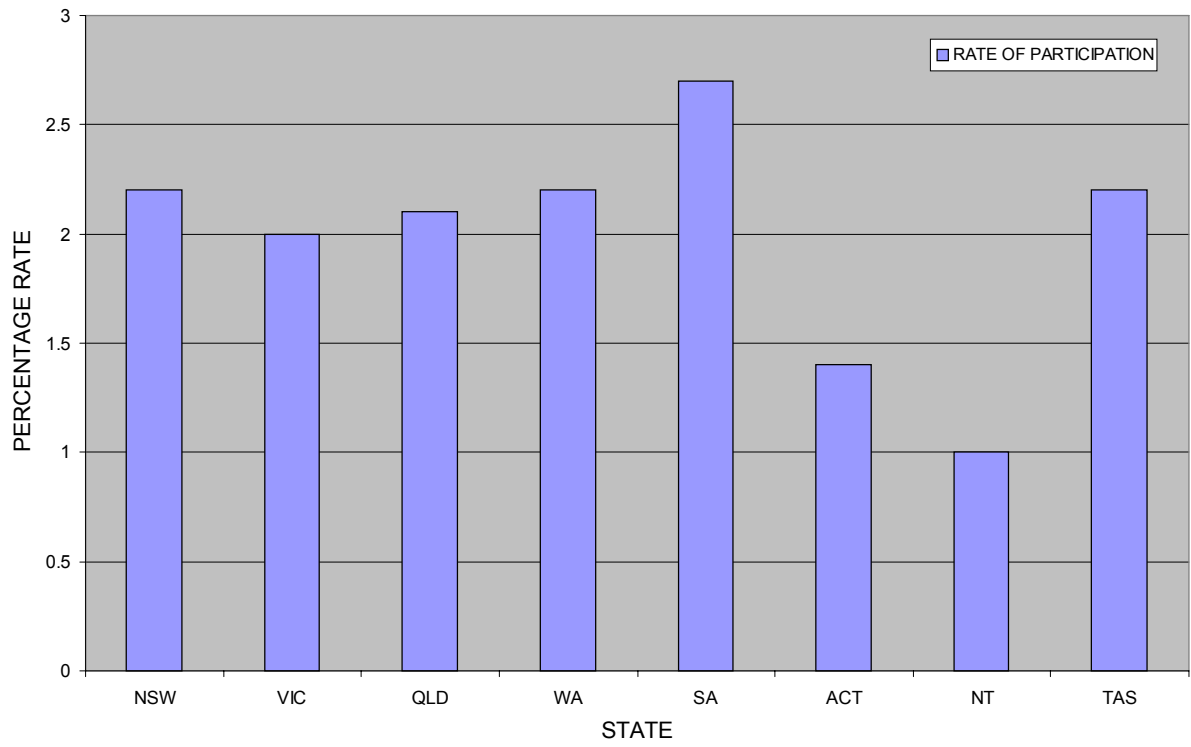
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYMENT



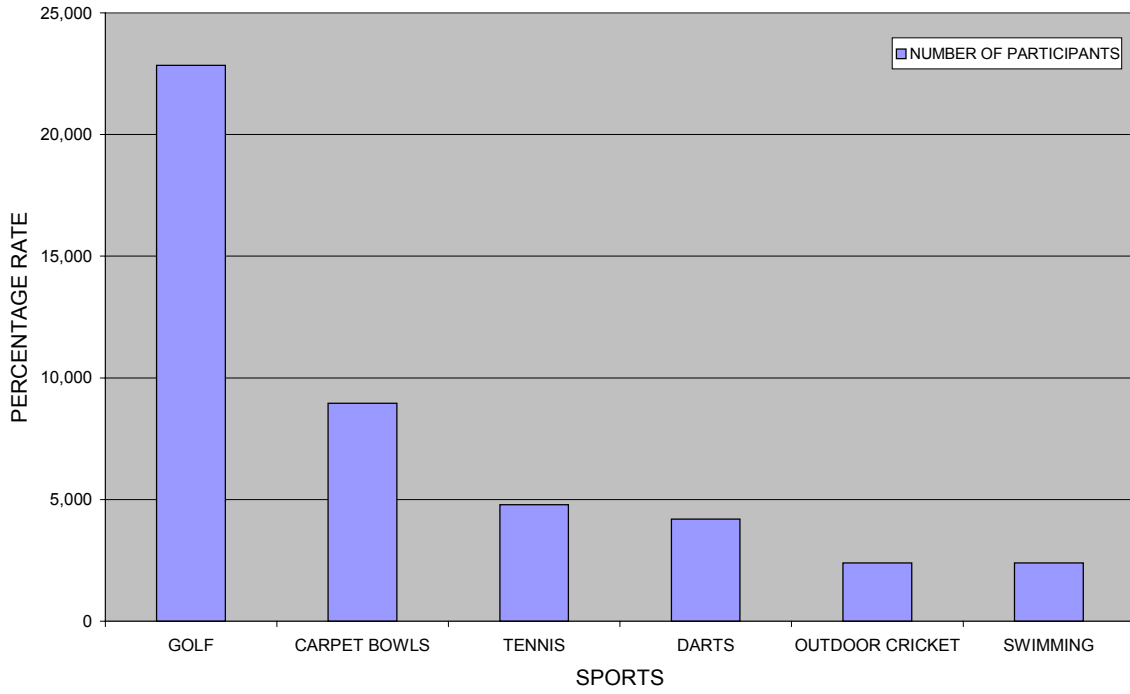
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



### OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY LAWN BOWLS PARTICIPANTS



### NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYED BY LAWN BOWLS PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

